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Crime prevention and criminal justice

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/191, describes the challenges that crime creates for socioeconomic development in Africa and the activities implemented by the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in conjunction with Member States and partner agencies. The report highlights the value of international collaboration and of emerging African perspectives in tailoring interventions and good practices to mitigate resource deficiencies and provide technical support to build the capacity to fight crime in Africa.

The report underscores the increasing concerns about poverty as a factor in criminality, and describes how this affects development and undermines investment in effective crime prevention efforts, including crucial resource mobilization by the Institute to engage in meaningful and sustainable anti-crime programme activities. It contains proposals for proactive efforts to diversify sources of funding and discusses employing traditional and non-traditional measures to underpin the ability of member States to meet financial responsibilities for crime prevention and criminal justice reforms. Proposals for strengthening the Institute following a diagnostic review of its status are also presented.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/191 and describes the crime situation in Africa, in particular the impact of high-profile criminal trends on socioeconomic development, peace and security. It addresses how a lack of resources affects the ability to meet strategic crime prevention objectives. It also highlights innovative approaches to mobilize capacity, especially cost sharing as a way to sustain service delivery. It describes the efforts of the Institute to mobilize both traditional and non-traditional sources of funding for its activities, including strengthening national and international crime prevention mechanisms. The Institute remains a focal point for professional efforts to promote active cooperation and collaboration among Governments, academics, institutions and experts in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice.

2. The crime problem in Africa should be seen in the context of its high cost and the resulting impediments to development. A combination of factors, including lack of appropriate skills, budgetary deficiencies (on average only 13 per cent is available for security) and traditional prejudices complicate a difficult situation. While the drive against crime is gaining momentum at the global level, transnational organized crime still poses formidable difficulties and is a cause for concern given the nascent state of crime prevention structures in Africa. Crime prevention should be factored into all development efforts and into project planning generally.

3. There is growing unease in Africa about the disparities in household wealth. The richest live in opulence, while communities struggle to cope with basic needs in terms of health, food security, education and housing despite the reported growth in economic activity. These disparities can create an environment where criminality is perpetuated.

4. Demographic changes are also causing a decline in household income and high levels of unemployment, especially among young people. Lack of transparency and accountability for the funds that are remitted, especially for poverty alleviation projects, have raised concerns among donors, undermining sustained donor support and thereby causing further difficulties for communities.

II. Governance and management

A. Governing Board

5. The twelfth session of the Governing Board has been deferred to give precedence to the outstanding review of the Institute, directed by the Board in 2010. The findings of the review are expected to inform the reforms to be undertaken after deliberations by the Board.

6. The management of the Institute, together with the host country, under the guidance of the Chair of the Governing Board, had requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to provide technical and financial assistance for the review. In March 2013, the Executive Secretary sent a consultant to carry out a diagnostic study of the Institute, prior to the fully fledged review.

7. The preliminary findings highlighted the significance of the Institute as a viable mechanism for promoting cooperation among the relevant entities to respond to the crime problem afflicting Africa. The review also indicated that a study of sister organizations should be conducted to provide a comparative analysis, focusing on shared successes and means to overcome common challenges.

8. Importantly, the study found that the Institute urgently needed to increase its income. In addition to financial contributions from member States, other sources of support were considered, including requesting the General Assembly to increase the current grant and increasing the financial support from member States of the Institute by expanding its membership from the current 29 States out of a total of 54 countries of Africa. The study recommended the immediate unfreezing of all vacant posts in order to provide adequate human resources for the Institute to execute its programmes.

9. The interest of ECA in supporting the reform of the Institute was affirmed with a recommendation that tripartite cooperation among ECA, the Institute and member States in reform efforts would help the Institute to fulfil its mandate.

10. It was further recommended that the operating instruments of the Institute should be evaluated with a view to endowing legitimacy and legal functionality on the new status that would result from the review. These instruments include the host country agreement, the statute, the financial rules and regulations and the staff rules and regulations.

11. The Government of Uganda acknowledged that the issue of financial support to the Institute was crucial in light of the substantial budget needed for crime prevention. In view of the economic challenges facing member States in Africa, which undermined their capacity to provide the necessary budgetary support for the Institute to operate satisfactorily, Uganda proposed that African countries would be served better, and their development accelerated considerably, if the African Union, ECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB), within their respective mandates, were to join efforts in an endeavour whereby the African Union would provide political guidance; ECA, technical input; and AfDB, the needed financing. Uganda further requested ECA to look into the possibility of sourcing additional financial provisions for the Institute, as well as secondment of researchers and other professionals.

B. General direction and management

12. The Institute has managed its programmes to be able to deliver its mandate and meet identified needs within its human and financial constraints. It successfully facilitated the review exercise and welcomed its recommendations, and has reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate with ECA in facilitating the implementation of proposed action.

13. Programmes have been implemented through collaboration with partner agencies, boosting the capacity of the Institute with resources provided by the partners. Efforts continued throughout the reporting period to mobilize resources from member States. The Institute is grateful to all member States that paid in full or in part their assessed contributions during the period 2012-2013.

14. However, financial difficulties have hampered the ability of the Institute to attract and retain the specialized staff it requires. The sudden departure of a staff member at the Director level illustrated the unsatisfactory conditions of service at the Institute and demonstrated a need for remedial intervention with requisite budgetary support. Efforts to develop capacity and improve staff motivation through equitable rewards and social support throughout 2012-2013 were hampered by inadequate funding. Two core staff posts, the Training Adviser and the Information/Documentation Adviser, remain frozen.

15. The Secretariat continued to accept invitations to attend conferences organized in the region by the African Union, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other organizations, making presentations and taking part in discussions. Through this collaboration, the Institute has enhanced its visibility, thus increasing possibilities for support from national, regional and international organizations.

III. Substantive programmes and activities

A. Overview

16. Crime is becoming more sophisticated and its impact is becoming more devastating across the African continent. The fight against crime is complicated by a lack of knowledge about its causes. Within communities, there is frequently indifference towards reporting crimes to the police. Cases sometimes come to the police because of the personal interests of the complainants rather than because of an obligation to report a crime. The police are sometimes seen as strangers who are not sensitive to the plight of the victims because of the need for victims to serve as witnesses, generating a perception that the testimony is more important than the plight of the victim. The police are often seen as a mechanism for compiling statistics and crime data rather than supporting victims, and they are often perceived as instruments of the State rather than servants of the people. This has affected the relationship between the police and the communities they serve. Resources are therefore now being channelled towards efforts to sensitize police personnel to the need for cooperation between the police and communities and to promote community policing. Resources are also being devoted to improving police public relations.

B. Project activities

17. Based on regional needs and increasing international momentum for practical measures to enhance community-based and human-rights-focused crime prevention and criminal justice strategies, the Institute is being identified by national authorities in Africa as a means to spearhead results-oriented technical support to promote popular, innovative and sustainable effective interventions.

18. The programme of work of the Institute for 2012 reflected the significance of sharing good practices tailored to the needs of individual African countries.

1. Research

19. Two reports on surveys, entitled "Evaluation of the community service orders programme of Kenya" and "Extent of implementation of the United Nations standard minimum rules by African countries", and the second edition of the *African Journal of Crime and Criminal Justice* were launched at the second biennial conference of the African Correctional Services Association (ACSA) and were recommended to Governments, educational institutions, experts and civil society organizations. The report on implementation of the standard minimum rules was discussed by a panel during the meeting of an intergovernmental expert group in December 2012.

20. A study on the drugs situation in Eastern Africa was published. The study increased knowledge about the prevalence of drug use in communities, schools and prisons as a silent crime. It showed how Africa must improve its delivery of social services for the benefit of these hidden groups that are using illicit drugs. National authorities should design special programmes targeting prisons and schools to increase understanding of these hidden segments of society.

21. Preparations for the third edition of the *African Journal of Crime and Criminal Justice* are under way, including articles on research aimed at responding to the crime problem and criminal justice challenges. Articles are being generated for consideration and processing by the editorial board. Reports indicate that the journal is influencing the formulation of policy guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice in a number of countries and is stimulating collaboration between research institutes, experts, academic personnel and public service officers in the search for knowledge based on research on topical issues.

2. Requests from member States for technical support

22. The Institute is processing requests from:

(a) Nigeria, for technical assistance in research and programme development aimed at capacity-building for counselling and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in human beings;

(b) Malawi, for technical assistance for crime prevention to address trafficking in human beings, alternative sentencing and the significance of forensic investigations in criminal justice;

(c) South Sudan, for assistance in prison reform through research leading to policy formulation and advocacy for resources. Needs have been assessed during a visit to South Sudan and the Institute is working out a programme of activities with the relevant authorities;

(d) Subject to availability of funds, evaluation surveys will be conducted in a number of countries in central and southern Africa on their criminal justice systems aimed at developing community-responsive correctional sanctions;

(e) Cameroon has sought support by a technical expert to analyse the situation of piracy and international armed robbery along the Gulf of Guinea in order to guide the formulation of an appropriate response to the problem. An initial report in this regard has been provided to the Cameroonian authorities.

23. Discussions have been initiated with the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, UNODC and the African Union to implement joint projects to address the priority needs of African countries to stem the drug problem by implementing drug demand reduction programmes and conducting research.

3. Training

24. The second ACSA biennial conference of correctional institutions was convened in Kampala in October 2012 with technical support from the Institute in planning, organizing and conducting the conference. The Institute presented a paper on trends and phases of corrections in Africa. Heads of 40 correctional institutions expressed interest in community-based correctional sanctions and requested the Institute to offer technical assistance in realizing that ideal. Preliminary activities have been carried out in South Sudan to establish a correctional system that incorporates reforms in operational policies, programmes and legislation. Consistent with regional and international correctional standards, the main goal is to highlight the significance within routine operations of effective social rehabilitation and subsequent reintegration of inmates into society, premised on the triangular connection between inmates, communities and the victims of crime.

25. Interactions with the offices of African States in Kampala and at regional conferences have focused on practical measures to curb the ever-increasing costs of maintaining correctional facilities, without compromising minimum standards for the human rights of inmates and while transforming them into useful members of society. The general trend has been an increase in the number of inmates, while the budgets of correctional institutions have not matched the level of admissions. In addition, most correctional institutions have faced difficulties in developing their infrastructure. As a result, new policies that promote the relationship between correctional facilities and communities, together with alternative sentencing options that will reduce overpopulation in correctional institutions, must be considered. Based on its mandate, the Institute is exploring sources of relevant expertise and technical support from sister agencies to facilitate the promotion of non-custodial sentences in Africa.

26. The Institute has facilitated the development of sentencing guidelines in the context of strengthening criminal justice in Uganda, the success of which may form the basis of good practice for dissemination to other jurisdictions. The guidelines have been promulgated and will be implemented by legal and judicial officers in Uganda so as to better ensure fairness and human rights in sentencing. The guidelines provide for a range of sentences for similar offences, using the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners as the basis for incarceration and preference for community service sentences for specific offences.

27. One of the most important elements of effective criminal justice delivery is the independence of the criminal justice system. Through technical support from donor communities and partner agencies, there is growing adherence to this requirement for impartial and professional judicial systems. This will further strengthen public confidence that justice can be delivered independently, which will help to maintain order in society. Importantly, there is a need to develop technical skills for contemporary justice delivery, improve the terms of service for judicial officers and increase the sensitization of local communities about the rights of people in custody.

Good coordination among the police, civil society, the legislative branch, the prosecution, corrections officers and local communities is essential in order to entrench the process of adjudication within legal procedures that are easily understood and familiar to people in the communities. Criminal justice reforms leading to successful judicial systems in other regions should be replicated so as to promote accountability and fairness, with full recognition of the fundamental rights of all parties. To this effect, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/191, the Institute is collaborating with UNODC and the African Union, together with other agencies to realize this ideal.

28. The Institute, in conjunction with the Centre for Capital Punishment Studies of the University of Westminster, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is continuing the training of legal practitioners and communities in Uganda to enhance human-rights-based interventions to minimize capital punishment sentencing. This training is based on the sentencing guidelines in Uganda, which maintain capital punishment but relegate it to the last applicable option. Sessions were held in November 2012 for law students and, subsequently, for practising lawyers. Leading consultants from London with broad experience in addressing serious crime helped to conduct the training, citing local and international legal frameworks and case studies in the process. Following this training, a number of practising lawyers have expressed interest in having direct collaboration with the Institute in advancing the dissemination of knowledge on emerging trends in the area of crime. The consultants from London promised to promote the Institute among prospective donors and hoped that they would be able to make a sizeable contribution to maintain the training sessions in the future.

4. Consultative meeting of experts on drug demand reduction in Africa

29. The drug problem continues to take a high toll on national development. Besides disrupting legitimate economic activities, it is a major factor at the centre of highly lucrative transnational organized criminal activities, the illicit proceeds of which are a source of insecurity and fuel high-profile corruption. The rampant abuse of drugs has resulted in health challenges, particularly affecting young people in Africa, where countries face difficulties in implementing detection and control mechanisms for drug-related offences. The problem of drug and substance abuse has intensified into an epidemic with serious health consequences, requiring accelerated efforts towards treatment and prevention. A total of 38 African Union member States were represented by their national drug control experts at a unique technical consultation in Kampala in February 2013 to discuss drug demand reduction in Africa. The experts reinforced their resolve to fight the problem through treatment and prevention initiatives, consistent with the revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2017). Guided by specific professional interventions by experts from relevant international organizations spearheaded by the African Union Commission, the Institute, UNODC, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, the experts identified the need for strategic action in priority areas, including:

(a) Conduct a rapid assessment survey of the situation regarding drug use and response capacity and needs, as requested by countries, including Botswana,

Burundi, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe;

(b) Conduct national drug use surveys to identify the prevalence rate and patterns of drug use in the general population or in school settings, as requested by Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia.

30. The revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2017), which was adopted in October 2012, endorsed the need for capacity-building in research and data collection through strengthening institutions to respond to the challenges of illicit drug use and facilitate the legitimate use and movement of narcotic drugs and controlled substances for lawful and justifiable causes. The Institute has approached the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the African Union Commission and UNODC with a request to continue collaboration to respond to the identified needs of African countries.

31. The fight against drugs will continue to depend on strong and relevant policies that are judiciously enforced, strengthening the law, sensitizing local communities and providing both technical support for capacity-building and alternative economic programmes to boost employment of young people. The mandate of the Institute offers prospects for guiding the necessary reforms in this matter.

5. Cybercrime

32. The Institute, through the African Centre for Cyberlaw and Cybercrime Prevention (ACCP), is collaborating with the Department of Information Science of the University of Pretoria to formulate and promote a project, Lex Informatica, to enhance the study of and disseminate knowledge about forensic science and cybersecurity. This project promotes efforts to enhance the regulation of use, generation and storage of information at the personal and institutional levels, and explores how relevant information can drive development. Information communications technology experts are part of a programme to publicize the value of ethical conduct in the context of social networking in the information age. The project also aims to safeguard the cybercommunity from the effects of electronic crime proliferated mainly through cyberscams, identity theft and other junk e-mail fraud. A number of sensitization and training workshops have been organized in South Africa, Ghana and Uganda, targeting university students who will subsequently be agents within their respective communities. The theme for 2013 was the advancement of cyberlaw and information ethics in Africa and globally. Experts in forensic and digital science and information technology, practising lawyers, business and corporate executives and public and private sector departments are following up on the project. A presentation was made by ACCP on global high-technology developments in the world and their implications for Africa at the workshop held in Pretoria.

33. The Institute is collaborating with the Council of Europe to organize a training workshop on the development and enhancement of legislation against cybercrime in East Africa. In light of the impact of cybercrime, States in East Africa (Kenya and Uganda) have adopted cybercrime legislation, while others (Burundi, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania) are preparing such legislation, often with support from international or regional organizations. The workshop will provide important

information in an effort to contribute to consistent and effective cybercrime legislation in East Africa. Botswana and Mauritius will also participate in the workshop.

34. Expected results from the workshop include:

(a) Analysis of current and draft legislation of participating countries in terms of consistency with the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, rule of law principles and effectiveness;

(b) Elements of cybercrime enforcement strategies identified by participants.

35. The available information concerning the response to cybercrime indicates the following concerns, as identified by ACCP:

(a) The ad hoc support normally provided is not always suitable for the long-term process of legislative reform;

(b) Legislative gaps and inconsistency with international standards;

(c) Bias towards legislation on electronic commerce rather than criminal justice responses;

(d) Insufficient safeguards and conditions regarding procedural powers;

(e) Lack of enforcement capabilities and strategies.

36. In this regard, ACCP is seeking to create effective coalitions with relevant institutions and experts in Africa to proactively facilitate remedial action, including preparing effective legislation against cybercrime. Good practices developed based on successful initiatives in controlling cybercrime in other continents has inspired the planning of a series of workshops in Africa. Africa is expected to benefit from support from the Council of Europe as part of a new global project to promote the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.

C. Information dissemination and collaboration

37. The Institute contributed articles and a goodwill message to the magazine of the second biennial conference of ACSA, which received wide distribution. The Institute also contributed to the following:

(a) Africa Union Commission online newsletter, *Drug News Africa*;

(b) Mission After Custody online magazine, *MAC Magazine*, with an article entitled "Creating a receptive community for ex-prisoners" published in August 2012.

38. Collaboration with partner agencies was aimed at promoting the visibility of the Institute, with an expected benefit of raising the prospects for resource mobilization. The Institute participated in the first UNODC intergovernmental expert meeting on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, held in Vienna from 31 January to 2 February 2012.

D. General direction and management

39. Concerns relating to the ownership of the land for the operation of the Institute have been resolved and the Government of Uganda has transferred the relevant title deeds to the Institute. Uganda can now proceed to solicit donor support for the construction of the centre of excellence for crime prevention and criminal justice, as requested by the Governing Board in 2010.

40. The Institute is continuing its consultation visits and exchange of correspondence with diplomatic missions to mobilize support and improve interaction with member States.

41. The Institute concluded the audit of accounts for the period 2011-2012.

IV. International cooperation and partnerships

42. Africa is a region of strategic importance in international efforts relating to crime prevention and criminal justice and plays a central role in collaboration activities and international networks, including obtaining technical assistance from specialized agencies to respond to weaknesses identified in African States. African States are seeking proactive strategies based on expert knowledge to inform policy development, which is vital in order to forestall the damage inflicted through crime. The Institute is at the forefront of these efforts with relevant regional and international agencies.

V. Funding and support

43. The total income of the Institute for 2012 was $541,622, which was less than the amount received in 2011 ($766,234). The decrease was attributable to non-payment of assessed contributions by the majority of the member States of the Institute and reduced income from leased premises. Contributions from member States amounted to $196,837 in 2012 compared with $415,439 in 2011. Similarly, $87,179 was received under "Other income" compared with $230,500 in 2011.

44. The sources of income for 2012 were as follows:

(a) Assessed financial contributions from member States: $196,837 (36 per cent);

(b) 2012 portion of the United Nations grant for the biennium 2012-2013: $257,606 (48 per cent);

(c) Other income from the rental of premises and facilities of the Institute: $87,179 (16 per cent).

45. For the period January to May 2013, the total income of the Institute amounted to $301,978, comprising the following:

(a) 2013 portion of the United Nations grant amounting to $93,500;

(b) Assessed contributions from member States: $35,349;

(c) A grant from the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific to finance activities relating to the consultative meeting of experts on drug demand reduction in Africa, held in Kampala in February 2013, amounting to $161,375;

(d) Rentals and ground rent from leased property of $11,754.

A. Assessed financial contributions from member States

46. During the reporting period (January 2012-May 2013) the Institute collected $232,231.65 from the following member States: Congo ($24,600); Libya ($122,931.68); Mozambique ($1,733); Nigeria ($11,328); Uganda ($58,224.21) and United Republic of Tanzania ($13,414.76).

47. Of the total expected amount of $9,956,000 to be received by the Institute for the period 1989-2013, only $3,134,041 had been received as at 31 May 2013, leaving a balance of $6,821,958 of unpaid contributions.

48. The non-payment of contributions by the majority of member States has continued to cripple the performance of the Institute. The current Chair of the Governing Board, the Minister of Justice of Malawi, has continued throughout the tenure of Malawi to reach out to all member States by all possible means to remind them of their obligation to support their Institute, but with little success. The Secretariat commends the efforts of those countries that have continued to meet their financial obligations, and at the same time appeals to those that have not paid their assessed contributions to do so, so as to enable the Institute to execute its mandates.

49. A major aim of the decision by the Governing Board to appoint a special committee to review the operations of the Institute in 2011 was to find an effective solution to prompt the member States to be actively involved in providing the needed financial support for the Institute; however the review is yet to commence.

50. The Institute recognizes and highly commends the continued support to the Institute by Uganda as the host country. In addition to settling all its outstanding arrears up to 2012 amounting to $58,224, in 1989 the Government transferred to the Institute title in land measuring 33 acres.

B. United Nations grant

51. As in the previous biennium, the Institute received $360,400 under the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The grant covered the salaries of the current four core Professional staff (Director, Deputy Director, Research and Policy Development Adviser and Administration/Finance Officer) for 18 months. The Institute will have to find an additional $120,000 to cover Professional staff salaries for six months (July-December 2013) and other staff costs for the international Professional staff. As stated in the previous report to the General Assembly (A/67/155), the Institute badly requires a sum of $711,760 to be able to cover from the United Nations regular budget the full costs of the core Professional posts, including the two currently frozen but urgently needed core posts of Training Adviser and Information/Documentation Adviser. The Institute is

therefore requesting that the grant be increased from the current $365,300 for the biennium 2012-2013 to $711,760 for the biennium 2014-2015. In this regard, it must be emphasized that all salaries are within the salary scales of the Institute.

52. At its fifth session, the Governing Board decided that in lieu of reviewing only the staff rules and regulations and financial rules and regulations of the Institute, it would instead direct that a system-wide review of the Institute be carried out to determine the overall status of the Institute, including its governance, mandate and support from member States. The Board approved an increase in staff salaries of 100 per cent as an interim measure until the completion of the review.

53. The numerous previous requests from the Institute to the General Assembly to consider increasing the United Nations grant were needed as a result of the approval by the Governing Board of the 100 per cent salary increase. The requests are not intended to equate the salaries of the staff of the Institute with those of the United Nations, but rather they are needed to cover the deficit which resulted from the salary increase approved in 2003. Equating staff salaries at the Institute to those of United Nations staff awaits the anticipated revision of the staff rules and regulations.

54. The Institute wishes to note with appreciation the prompt action by the Executive Secretary of ECA in dispatching the consultant who initiated the diagnostic study to determine the extent of the required review of the Institute (see also sect. II.A above). The interim report by the consultant identified areas requiring immediate attention before the full review is undertaken. It is anticipated that the review will be completed and adopted by relevant organs in the United Nations system before the 2016-2017 biennium.

C. Other income

55. The following revenue was received for the period January 2012 to May 2013:

	United States dollars
Leased premises	$67,379.77
Rented premises	$29,776.90
Interest and gain on exchange	$1,776.82
	$98,933.49

VI. Future of the Institute

56. The countries of Africa must find common ground on the apparently insurmountable challenges and must intensify immediate efforts to implement necessary reforms while laying out a clear plan to integrate relevant local practices into a sustainable crime prevention regime. In the face of high-profile crime and current trends in transnational organized crime, crime prevention and criminal justice mechanisms in Africa face challenges and intermittent setbacks, although ongoing efforts promise continued improvement. This requires African countries to collaborate more to form a concerted bloc, relax some sovereignty concerns and

share costs, in the interests of a pan-African strategy that promotes regional harmony as a remedial measure against crime. Africa should stake its claim on the stability of the region and champion its socioeconomic development, by confronting criminal activities with decisive crime prevention initiatives centred on professional advisory services from the Institute and the network of affiliate organizations. Increasingly, the fight against crime in Africa will have to incorporate poverty eradication schemes.

57. Criminal justice systems in Africa face severe challenges and must be reformed to allow the continent to address emerging criminal trends. Cyberspace in Africa is considered to be the most frequently attacked in the world. Crime is being conducted using the very instruments of development that are so highly valued by African countries: technological tools. The situation is further aggravated by dire social conditions, imposing unprecedented calamities and social challenges caused by avoidable epidemics: disease resulting from a variety of conditions ranging from basic sanitation problems to complex viral infections, especially in sub-Saharan Africa; food insecurity caused by ancient methods of peasant production; scarcity of clean water caused by environmentally degrading practices; and unemployment resulting from low levels of investment. All these undermine the normal production of wealth that should increase the standard of living.

58. Economic potential is affected by inadequate management, which can cause deficits and economic setbacks. The continent has to re-energize its capacities to support faltering crime prevention mechanisms, notwithstanding existing and new strategies and policies that sustain the momentum against crime. The development objective of the Institute enjoins it to actively participate in regional and subregional mechanisms for economic integration and political cooperation to bring crime prevention awareness into the mainstream. The prevalent and dynamic crime problem in Africa must be addressed with a combination of measures, together with coordination of relevant agency programmes to pursue common crime prevention targets; this will require resources and expertise, including technological innovations. However, this struggle is likely to be protracted. In the interim, the situation will require criminal justice systems and crime prevention agencies to use the knowledge base available at the Institute in order to afford Africa the chance to ease the deficiencies in expertise and skills that have resulted in operational setbacks in crime prevention. Africa would do well to align current policies with required standards and norms so as to avoid disorder in service provision and promote proper management of public affairs and observance of the rule of law through orderly and transparent procedures of good governance.

59. There have been challenging instances of extremism, linked to sporadic rebellions and insurgencies, piracy and upsurges of social-political agitation, especially following the Arab Spring and the post-revolution effects. In some instances, these have been used to cover human rights abuses and the commission of crimes against property. In May 2013, as Africa celebrates 50 years of integration and political cooperation, as well as the tenth anniversary of the African Peer Review Mechanism, there has been a useful effort to maintain standards for constitutionalism in the region. Political developments have led to an increased focus on socioeconomic integration, including enhanced cooperation at the regional and subregional levels in matters of maintaining peace and security and combating crime across boundaries. Institutions that are mandated to facilitate crime

prevention and strengthen criminal justice should be incorporated into regional mechanisms tasked with strategic planning for the future of the continent. The ongoing review of the Institute and the recommendations to strengthen it should help to shape the new definitions around which development will revolve. The growing collaboration between the Institute, UNODC and the African Union should be consolidated to take special cognizance of the budgetary challenges that affect the capacity of the Institute to fulfil its mandate.

60. It is crucial that development in the social sector should deal with social inequalities, with a focus on investing in education that addresses national economic priorities. Stiffer sanctions should be introduced for officials who exploit their position and act outside the law. Marginalization of certain sectors of the population is a factor in crime. According to Transparency International, Africa still suffers from gross misappropriation of resources, including resources from donors, because of high levels of corruption. The Institute is planning to develop programmes to sensitize Governments and conduct various training modules to emphasize the importance of acquiring and retaining the skills needed for development. Member States should support the Institute by paying to participate in these programmes.

61. The consequences of lack of employment opportunities, uneven development, uncontrolled investment, environmental destruction, overpopulation and social service delivery challenges manifest in social discontent and conflict. According to the World Bank *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development*,[1] violence is one of the central development challenges of this time. Progress in the region is severely threatened by the onset of violence, dissent and discontent and various other pressures on democracy. It is an issue of concern that most resources, including international support, are deployed to settle disputes arising out of discontent in virtually all regions of Africa; the north, the Great Lakes region, the Horn of Africa and the west of the continent. This situation has received substantial momentum from recent upheavals calling for greater self-determination, with a variety of spill over effects. The lesson from these upheavals is that Africa needs more sensitization to the obligations deriving from civic and national patriotism, rule of law, good governance, democratic culture and amicable resolution of conflicts without violence. The Institute should spearhead proactive programmes to make this happen, in collaboration with partner agencies, promoting socioeconomic development through good governance in all countries in Africa in the process. Public resources and the environment should be protected as a common good, benefiting all sectors of the population. This will give impetus for Africa to participate more meaningfully in the global efforts for crime prevention and merit potential donor support from agencies and Governments.

VII. Conclusion

62. The fight against crime has gained the attention of Governments, institutions and experts. Legal frameworks, justice systems and crime prevention mechanisms still appear to be addressing the "tip of the iceberg", that is, the symptoms. Local communities that are unaware of the serious criminal aspects of acts such as

[1] World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development* (Washington, D.C., 2011).

smuggling, trafficking in human beings and corruption should be integrated into the processes that define criminal acts, with their level of participation and their views respected and visibly incorporated into policy. Input from local communities should be tapped by conventional crime prevention agencies to add a new dimension to the ongoing search for effective strategies for crime prevention. The mandate of the Institute covers, inter alia, undertaking policy-oriented surveys, studies and research and assisting in the development of information and databases on crime, crime prevention and criminal justice; and promotion of cooperation, collaboration and coordination of efforts among Governments in the formulation and harmonization of common policies and exchange of information on crime prevention and control. Based on the unique relationship of the Institute with its member States, opportunities for activating valuable programmes to address crime in Africa will be crucial, cost-effective and relevant.

63. The review of the Institute coincides with the review of focus at the African Union during the golden jubilee celebrations for continental unity. In the process, it is recommended that crime prevention and criminal justice administration premised on the mandate of the Institute have a central role. Politics of integration, economic emancipation and social development of the continent will be upheld by significant investment in crime prevention.

64. Resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the African Union and the Governing Board of the Institute demonstrate the importance of supporting the Institute, including through closer cooperation with member States and relevant national and international entities. The Institute repeats its appeal to the donor community, partner agencies, the African Union and the United Nations to actively support it, so that it can assist African States in more effectively addressing issues relating to crime prevention and criminal justice in a concerted manner.